

Beliefs Necessary to Achieve Community Inclusion

Revolutionary Common Sense by Kathie Snow, www.disabilityisnatural.com

- ◆ People with disabilities are not their diagnoses.
- ◆ The “problem” is never a person’s diagnosis; the real problems arise out of our attitudes and actions related to disability.
- ◆ Like gender, ethnicity and other traits, disability is a natural characteristic of being human.
- ◆ People with disabilities are more like people without disabilities than different.
- ◆ All people have gifts and talents, and can contribute to their communities.
- ◆ Communities—and the ordinary people in them—have great capacity to include and support all citizens.
- ◆ Most needs of individuals with disabilities and their families can be met by natural supports and generic services in typical, ordinary environments.
- ◆ Communities are “ready” to include and support individuals with disabilities right now, and children and adults with disabilities are “ready” to be included right now.
- ◆ Identifying a person’s interests, connecting the person to others with similar interests in ordinary community activities, and providing the appropriate supports and accommodations can ensure community inclusion.

Inclusion in the community will happen when we believe it can happen.